

GympieToday

HOME BUILDERS GUIDE

FOURTH EDITION



Build your dream, don't buy it

By Donna Jones

AS the great Australian dream becomes increasingly more expensive to own an established home, more and more people are choosing to build as a way to get the features and amenities that will work for them with a much friendlier price tag.

While established homes can have character, they can also have any myriad of issues such as termite, structural or water damage, poor ventilation so they are draughty in winter and sweltering in summer, poor insulation thereby costing a small fortune to heat or cool, or can be badly dated and sorely need a facelift.

Even if you find a property relatively problem free, the massive ticket price is just the start with all the additional fees and charges that go on top adding up to be a monumental mortgage and headache.

A much more affordable option for many people is to build their own home.

These days, building companies can often package up the house and land and prospective buyers can customise layouts, fixtures and finishes and even factor in external living spaces and landscaping.

The Gympie region is a great place to buy and build, with it's close proximity to Brisbane and the coast, and the expanding list of amenities, shops and restaurants, excellent schools and universities, while still retaining the friendliness of a small town.

It's no wonder people are moving to the area in record numbers.

This booklet is a handy guide on building your own home and services and businesses that can help you achieve your dream.



GympieToday
HOME BUILDERS
 GUIDE

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Top trends for home design

By Donna Jones

DESIGNING your own space has never been more popular, with more and more buyers looking to customise their homes to meet their individual needs and the list of requirements is becoming more unusual.

Here's 10 of the top trends buyers are looking for in their new home designs.

1. Barkitecture

With couples waiting longer to start a family, and many (nearly 70 per cent) channeling their energy into pet ownership before then, "barkitecture" or design that pampers their pooches, is making its mark. Owners are seeking sleeping nooks, pet baths, and more built into their designs so their animals will feel just as at home as they do.

2. Bathroom Luxury

Luxury in the bathroom is extremely sought after and those designs that create a spa-like feel are particularly desirable. Wet rooms are trending for their practicality and future-proofing with non-slip flooring and grab bars are also design elements on the wishlist for buyers.

3. Biophilic design

It sounds fancy but it basically means creating a flow from the inside, out, to blur the lines between indoor and outdoor living. This means creating more glass doors and windows and



The home office is making a comeback. (iStock)

using natural materials like stone and timber. Elements of this design include the wide use of plants such as wall gardens, to create an illusion of being outdoors, while still, technically inside.

4. Cater's kitchens

Designing spaces around eating and entertaining are some of the hottest trends in 2025, sacrificing the traditional formal dining space for island benches, and butler's pantries, regardless of the home size. The kitchen will remain the heart of the home, but the focus of the space will be on social connection and communal culinary activity.

5. Enhanced outdoor spaces

The push for quality outdoor areas continues, with wide verandas and patio

spaces, gazebos, or separate gondolas proving to be a desirable feature for the backyard. These spaces are being pre-designed with features such as barbecues, fire pits, and poolside lounges and include practical additions like storage or toilet facilities for added convenience.

6. Multipurpose space

Some are choosing to design smaller spaces, making them more flexible and multi-functional. Offices can double as guest rooms with Murphy beds and in smaller layouts, kitchens, lounges, and office areas often merge seamlessly into one adaptable zone with clever storage, and multifunctional furniture making the areas more livable.

7. Pocket Offices

Linked to a desire to increase privacy and the rise in working remotely, the demand is growing for "pocket offices" across modern homes. Size is not a factor as long as small, functional workspaces can be tucked into existing layouts. The home gym is being sacrificed for a better home office in some cases.

8. Privacy push

It seems open-plan living is becoming a thing of the past, with private spaces being more desirable in home designs. This can be achieved through screens, partitions, and multi-zone climate control for the heating and air-conditioning systems, possibly driven by the energy and cost of living crisis.

9. Smart storage solutions

While not a new trend, the push towards innovative storage remains a priority. Buyers value integrated utility rooms or mudrooms, combined with laundries near entrances for convenience, and are mindful of functionality while maintaining aesthetic appeal.

10. Sustainability

Fuelled in part by the energy crisis, eco-conscious design continues to shape the market with solar panels, EV chargers, and LED lighting dominating new developments, reflecting growing buyer demand for energy efficiency and reduced environmental impact.

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Home for all ages

HOME configurations are changing and more and more families are looking to multigenerational living to combat the cost of living and housing crisis.

Whether that comes in the shape of a granny flat for older family members, a parent's retreat, a teen wing, or a kid's rumpus, it all means different living areas for different members of the family.

An estimated 20 percent of Australians are living in multigenerational households, driven by the cost of living, increased life expectancy, and changing needs.

This approach allows families to embrace the practical, social and financial advantages of having multiple generations under one roof.

Multigenerational living can be of great benefit to the aging community, as elderly family members can be cared for, at home, by family members which is more cost-efficient than an aged care facility.

Grandparents are given the opportunity to help share the load of childcare, helping to take some burden off full-time working parents.

Young graduates and young families can save on rental costs while elderly family members have the benefit of social interaction and help with household maintenance.

With younger and older generations living under one roof, the household chores and maintenance can be shared between those who are able to.

An excellent example of the benefits of multigenerational living is with high school graduates moving in with grandparents as they start their journey from school and into working life.

This allows the graduates to start saving money while also helping their grandparents with everyday tasks and companionship.

The elder generations can retain a sense of independence as well as a feeling that they are still needed, with the younger generations helping out with tasks, such as driving and the lifting and moving heavy objects, which the elderly generation might not be able to accomplish anymore.

This approach of multigenerational living has many benefits, with both the older and younger generations reaping the rewards, with those reaching their elder years retaining the benefits of social inclusion, and the younger generation receiving help with the rise in the cost of living and learning skills to help them become independent when the time comes.



Photo: Nicolas Gonzalez on Unsplash

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Unplug and thrive

By Gabriel Laidler-Burns

MORE and more people are going off grid when it comes to their homes and lives.

Widely regarded as a way of getting back to what matters; family, nature and freedom, going off-grid means disconnecting from all main services and being completely self-sufficient.

But in order to do this major shift, there are many factors to consider.

The first step is finding the right location as this plays a significant part in your ability to live sustainably, grow your own food, and build a resilient self-sufficient lifestyle.

Check to make sure it's legal for off grid living, away from cities and urban areas, has ample resources for self sufficiency, has proper bedrock for building structures and wastewater disposal such as a septic tank and has a natural water source.

Tiny homes while not being cute and trendy are a strong choice for many opting toward the off grid lifestyle.

Tiny homes can be everything from a cabin to a shipping container to a trailer or a tiny home on wheels, letting you effectively manage space and help you be self-sufficient by lowering your



energy needs.

When you go off grid, you'll need to consider your electrical needs and plan accordingly.

Solar is the main option, however it

can also be worth considering investing in a generator, particularly as a back-up, such as bio-diesel powered generators, gas generators, or even off grid wind turbines.

Learning to grow your own food is considered the most reward and fun part of living off-grid, consider how you want to grow your food or if you want to raise livestock such as hens or cattle.

Meet your Builder



We are a home specialist with a passion for perfection and a wealth of experience and knowledge. We specialise in one-off custom-built & designed homes, Extensions and Renovations and Bathrooms. We understand that building or renovating a home is one of the biggest investments a person, couple or family can make so we ensure we are as transparent, professional and flexible as possible during the process. There is a stigma in the building industry that this process can be very stressful and daunting so our goal at Thistle Homes is to make sure this process is as enjoyable and stress-free as possible. Our entire team are local and have a strong commitment to making sure we offer first-class service and workmanship and ensure that every facet of your home construction process is considered with passion and attention to detail

We are a small family operated business that is passionate about employing local staff, using local suppliers and keeping the money in the local community.

Client Testimonials

"Thank you so much to Thistle Homes for making our dreams come true. A truly wonderful team to work with. We have gone from a single story, 2 bed, one bath with half a living room. to a double story 4 bed 2.5 bath and 2 huge living rooms. This will be a house our family will be proud to call home for many, many years to come. Thanks again to Steve and the team for all the extra efforts you put in. I highly recommend Thistle Homes to anyone." - Alison Buckley

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INTEREST RATES CUT

Brakes still on (slightly)

By Arthur Gorrie

INTEREST rate cuts will be a good news-bad news story for Gympie, but the difference will not be huge, according to Gympie financial planner Paul Dobbrick of Dobbrick Financial Services.

For those struggling with mortgage payments, the cut in official rates, announced by the Reserve Bank last month, will be some small relief in a time of rising living costs.

For self-funded retirees and others generating income from interest-bearing investments, there will be some loss of income, Mr Dobbrick said.

“The use of interest rates to control inflation puts the burden onto people paying off a mortgage and many of them have been struggling,” he said.

“It’s a two-edged sword,” he said.

“People over 50 might earn money from interest and people under 50 are often paying loans.

“They are the ones really feeling the pain,” he said.

“Hopefully this will be some small relief for people who are struggling.

“It won’t make a huge difference, but making payments is a big part of a lot of people’s expenditure.”

“Usually when the Reserve Bank cuts rates, they don’t just do it once.

“Usually we have three or four cuts.”

“It depends on inflation and we have had stickier inflation than most.

“We were behind the rest of the world in raising rates and we’re behind in cutting them.

“They’ve still got the brakes on. Often interest at 3.6 to 3.8 per cent is neutral. At the current rate, they’ve still got more to cut.

“Most people are expecting one or two more cuts this year. he said.

Gympie financial planner Paul Dobbrick. (Supplied: 460510)



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A reflection of you

By Donna Jones

YOUR home is an outward reflection of your soul," said Katrina De Vere of De Vere Design Co

"I love taking who you are and projecting that in your home, revealing your personality."

That's what has driven Katrina to be an interior designer for the better part of the last decade and the best part of her job, she says.

"I enjoy the whole creative process, it's individual and unique for all my customers."

Katrina has experience with residential design as well as commercial spaces and can work with building designers and architects to create beautiful and liveable spaces right from the concept stage outset, that can fill the expectations of her clients.

Or, she can help to redesign spaces to tie together existing design elements to create a more cohesive environment.

"Generally my clients will have a direction, snippets from Pinterest or magazines - elements that evoke an emotional response - and even if they don't see how they fit together, I can gather the common threads to tie it all together," she said.

"I'm driven to help people create beautiful surroundings."

Research has found that the home environment can positively impact mental health and that creating safe, beautiful, and comfortable surroundings can help a person's psychological well-being, leading to greater resilience and a more upbeat and positive outlook on life.

"I like to pinpoint their style - for instance, some people like colour, some prefer clean lines - and I work with them to create a space that speaks to them but also works well.

"I can work with building designers and architects to create flow with door and window placements, even down to door and window placement with consideration of your furniture layout at the finishing stage.

"I can attend the site and work with tilers to dictate the tiles and the laying patterns.



Katrina De Vere from De Vere Design Co can start from the plans up, to help create a beautiful and cohesive space that will elevate

"We attend site meetings during the build or renovation process with all trades involved in the building process, from plumbing and electrical rough-in, to tile lay patterns.

"I work with electricians to design the electrical fitout to ensure the light switches are in the right spot, and there are enough electrical outlets for the space.

"I can help with the layout of bathrooms and kitchen cabinets, all before the furniture and the decor comes into it," she said.

"We custom design the cabinetry joinery for our clients and work with the

cabinet makers to ensure the whole process results in every fine detail being met."

Katrina strongly recommends that people who are building their own homes speak with an interior designer to ensure they are going to get a layout that works with their lifestyle.

"Even if you are doing a full renovation, building your home is the most expensive exercise - you want to get it right.

"It's the single biggest investment people will ever make.

"You want to get some assistance - just ask the question," she said.

Then, when her customers are ready to fill their space with decor and homewares, Katrina can step up and help to make their home beautiful and functional and a reflection of their individuality.

And, regardless of the style of design, she can source any style of decor in her homewares store, Home By De Vere, on Monkland Street, Gympie.

"While there is a certain style to the decor in the store, I can source any style of accessories for my clients through the shop.

"You only need to ask," she said.

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At De Vere Design Co, we are driven by a profound conviction that every home should be a genuine reflection of its inhabitants. This belief is firmly rooted in the understanding that a thoughtfully designed space, filled with a carefully curated selection of elements, has the power to resonate with the very essence of those who dwell within it. This synergy fosters a sense of grounded and interconnected living, ultimately enhancing mood and overall well-being.

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Tax break for new builds

THE Queensland government has axed stamp duty on new builds, in an attempt to encourage more new builds and help lessen the housing crisis.

Treasurer and Minister for Home Ownership David Janetzki said thousands of Queenslanders will benefit from abolishing stamp duty on new builds for first-home buyers.

The cut will be implemented from 1 May, 2025.

Due to an increase in demand, the Queensland Treasury predicts the move could deliver an additional 800 new homes and support thousands of Queenslanders to get into their first home.

Eligible first-home buyers will save \$9096 on a median-priced house-and-land package in Queensland.

The spokesperson said Queensland currently records the nation's lowest rate of home ownership of any state.

The government has already unlocked church and charity-owned land for additional community housing and enabled first homeowners to rent out rooms without financial penalty.

Treasurer Janetzki said the move is about delivering real cost-of-living action for Queenslanders.

"Thousands of young people who



want to enter the housing market will save because of these initiatives," Treasurer Janetzki said.

"For too long this State has been at the bottom of the homeownership ladder, but we're unlocking the door for more Queenslanders."

REIQ Chief Executive Officer Antonia

Mercorella welcomed the new laws designed to give a leg up to first-home buyers in Queensland by removing financial obstacles and restraints.

"This will save first-time buyers of new homes and land tens of thousands of dollars and lower the upfront financial

hurdles to home ownership," Ms Mercorella said.

"Another sensible step backed by the REIQ is allowing first home buyers to rent out a room while keeping concessions – this not only supports home ownership but also helps address the need for rental supply."



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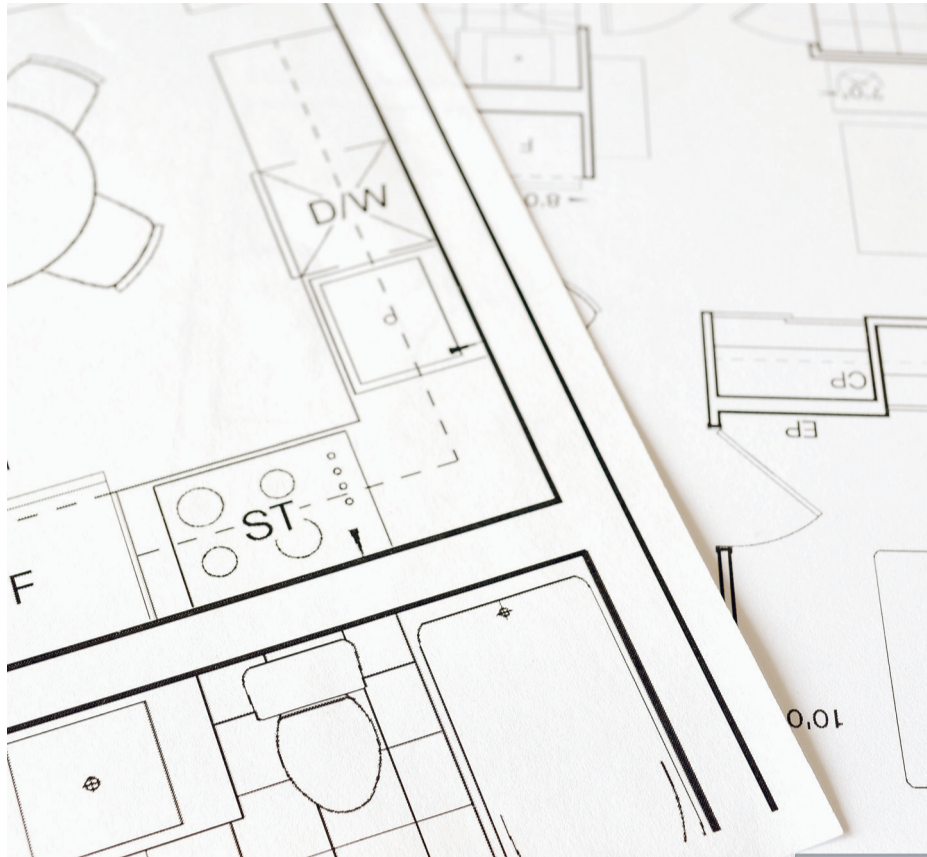
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More than just a sleep space

WHILE bedrooms are still primarily a sleep environment, they are not just an area where we can snooze.

According to a university study, our traditional sleep spaces are being used for various purposes and becoming more multifunctional in response to our growing spatial needs.

For the research, a team led by UNSW Sydney surveyed 304 Australian residents of different demographics, including age and gender, about their bedroom space and sleep habits.

Around 40 per cent of respondents used their bedroom as their living space, while 61 per cent said they preferred to use it just for sleep.

Age, occupation, and bedroom location all affected usage and preferences.

Just like eating, sleep is fundamental for humans to survive.

But given that we spend around a third of our lives asleep, our domestic sleep spaces – and how we use them – are relatively unexplored from a design perspective.

Meanwhile, other domestic rooms, such as the kitchen, have been closely studied by designers to determine their optimal design, layout, and features.

"We spend most of our time at home in the bedroom, but its use is expanding beyond its primary function as a sleep environment," said Dr Demet Dincer, lead author of the study and interior architecture lecturer from UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture.

"These initial findings help us better understand the different uses of the contemporary sleep environment and inform better design strategies for these spaces.

"While a well-laid-out and equipped kitchen is no guarantee for tasty meals, it can make hygienic cooking of better-tasting meals easier than a poorly equipped and laid-out one.

"The same could be said for bedrooms and sleep," says Dr Christian Tietz, study co-author and senior lecturer in industrial design at UNSW.

Overall, 90 per cent of respondents used their bedroom at least some of the time for sleeping, while the remaining either did not have a bedroom space for sleeping or used it for a different purpose altogether.

"The ratio of participants who



mentioned sleeping in spaces other than a permanent bedroom was not high, such as sleeping in a car or a spare room," Dr Dincer says.

"But before we have a discussion on optimal sleep conditions, it is important to note today's sleep environment might not be merely a room, including a bed, either."

A multifunctional sleep environment

According to the findings, the mean hours per day spent in a sleep environment are 9.31, while the mean hours spent sleeping are 7.12.

There was no difference in the amount of time spent in the bedroom based on gender.

Younger participants also spent more time in their bedrooms than any other age group, while they were also more likely to use the space for activities other than sleep.

Students reported using the bedroom more as a working area – even more so than respondents who worked from home.

Respondents living in share housing were also more likely to use their

bedroom as a work area, while those living in a studio apartment were more likely to use their sleep environment as a shared space.

Among the other activities in the sleep environment, watching TV was the highest activity, followed by reading, studying or working, eating and then exercising.

"Almost half of our respondents said their bedroom was their living space, even though most don't prefer that.

However, we can't change the reality that our domestic spaces, including the bedroom space, are shrinking and must accommodate more functions," Dr Dincer says.

As space, particularly in cities, becomes more of a premium, Dr Dincer says we need to rethink the different boundaries affecting the use of our sleep environments.

"Bedrooms are one of our most private spaces.

"But how much we can personalise them is very limited in Australia, particularly for renter-occupiers," Dr Dincer says.

"It would be ideal if our laws allowed renters more flexibility to customise their space beyond just furnishings, particularly if we intend to stay for an extended period."

Previous sleep studies suggest the sleep environment significantly influences sleep quality and problems like sleep apnea and insomnia.

However, this, and the participants' health, were not the focus of the current study.

But in the next stage, the research team will use the Creative Robotics Lab at UNSW's Paddington Campus to collaborate with sleep experts and explore how different features and changes to the sleep environment affect sleep quality.

"We're looking forward to this important collaboration between designers and sleep researchers that should give us a more holistic understanding of what makes an optimal sleep environment and how they can be more flexible and responsive to changing spatial needs," Dr Dincer says.

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When it comes to water...

QUEENSLAND, (especially in the central and western districts) is a region known for its arid climate and limited water resources.

But Gympie residents can embrace innovative solutions to secure their water future.

As the region faces increasing pressure from climate change and population growth, the importance of being water-wise has never been more critical.

Rainwater harvesting is regaining in popularity in Gympie as households and businesses install systems to capture and store rainwater.

This practice not only reduces dependence on municipal water supplies but also helps mitigate the impact of droughts.

By collecting rainwater from rooftops and storing it in tanks, residents can use this precious resource for irrigation, flushing toilets and even drinking, provided it is properly filtered.

Water filtration is a vital component of a water-wise strategy.

Filtration systems ensure that harvested rainwater and other non-potable water sources are safe for use.

Advanced filtration technologies remove contaminants such as sediment,

chlorine, and harmful micro-organisms, providing clean and safe water for various applications.

This not only protects public health but also enhances the utility of alternative water sources.

Smart irrigation systems are revolutionising water use in agriculture and landscaping.

These systems use sensors and weather data to optimise watering schedules, ensuring that plants receive the right amount of water at the right time.

By reducing water waste and improving efficiency, smart irrigation helps conserve water while maintaining lush, productive landscapes.

Together, these practices form a comprehensive approach to water conservation in the Gympie region.

By harvesting rainwater, filtering it for safe use, and employing smart irrigation techniques, the residents of Gympie can take significant steps towards a sustainable water future.



Photo: Jacek Dylag/ Unsplash



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Don't be pestered

YOUR home is your most valuable asset, so it pays to protect it, inside and out.

Pests such as spiders, ants, cockroaches, and termites are at least a nuisance, and at most, can destroy your property.

When purchasing a home use an expert to check the entire house and property using a visual and technical inspection.

It may save a lot of heartache and money to know what the situation could be before signing on the dotted line.

Inspections can include checks for

termites, fungal decay, borers, and poor drainage, not just inside the home but around the property as well.

Inspections should include trees, landscaping materials, garages and sheds, fencing, and even retaining walls.

If you think you have a problem be assured there are solutions available using the latest in technology and treatment systems.

Rats and mice can also be a problem as they will use a home for their own needs which include food, shelter, and water.

Electrical wiring, appliances, and bedding can be affected by rodents causing safety issues such as electrocution, unhygienic circumstances, and odours through droppings.

Using a quality pest control service will be able to help provide a range of solutions, especially for people who need to factor in pets and other animals.

Bugs such as earwigs, silverfish, ants, and centipedes can be eradicated as well, with a pest controller able to provide the best advice on how to treat

the property.

Spiders can be an issue, especially in rural areas, so ask for advice on how to treat the home or business.

Bees and wasps often use homes as a place to build their hive, making it a very awkward situation for all.

Most pest controllers will use a product that will help the bees and wasps make the decision to leave their current location.

Whatever the problem, property owners should call in an expert to treat the cause.

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Outdoor living made simple

OUTDOOR living spaces have become increasingly popular in recent years, as homeowners seek to create stylish and functional spaces for entertaining and relaxing in the gardens of their own homes.

These modern outdoor rooms combine sleek design with practicality, resulting in spaces that are both visually appealing and highly functional.

One notable aspect of contemporary outdoor kitchens is their emphasis on minimalism and clean lines.

They often feature simple, streamlined designs with a focus on geometric shapes and a monochromatic color palette.

This minimalist approach creates an uncluttered and sophisticated atmosphere, allowing the kitchen to blend seamlessly with the rest of the home's exterior design.

Another key feature of contemporary outdoor living spaces is the integration of technology.

Many are equipped with state-of-the-art appliances, such as built-in wine coolers, under-counter refrigerators, and high-end barbecue, complete with



rotisserie, pizza ovens and more.

These technological advancements not only enhance the functionality of the space but also add a touch of luxury and convenience.

Contemporary outdoor kitchens also prioritise the use of high-quality materials.

Sleek countertops made from materials like quartz or marble are often featured,

along with custom cabinetry in rich wood finishes.

These materials not only contribute to the bar's aesthetic appeal but also ensure durability and longevity. In terms of functionality, contemporary outdoor spaces are designed to accommodate the needs of both the host and guests.

They typically include ample storage space for utensils, a fully functioning sink



as well as dedicated areas for firewood and accessories.

Some even incorporate seating options such as bar stools or lounge areas, providing a comfortable and inviting space for guests to relax and socialise.

Overall, contemporary outdoor spaces have evolved to become stylish and functional areas that elevate the home entertainment experience.

Whether used for intimate gatherings or larger parties, these spaces combine sleek design, advanced technology, and practical features to create a sophisticated and enjoyable space for homeowners and their guests.

Outdoor showers are a feature most gardens should try to incorporate – especially if you have a pool.

From a practical point of view, outdoor showers are ideal for rinsing off after a swim in the pool.

They're also great for rinsing off dogs.

And moving away from the practical benefits, who doesn't love to shower in the outdoors?

It's often the best thing about rooms or villas at a tropical resort to have a beautifully designed outdoor shower – and there's no reason why this can't be replicated in your own backyard.

Here are a few key tips for creating an outdoor shower:

- Location – Location and privacy are everything if you'd like to use your shower for day-to-day showering and not just rinsing off when you have your swimmers on. Rendered, timber or stone walls can provide privacy – and attaching your shower as an extension to your house if you want to use it for an actual shower is the best way to create a private area. If you can access it via your existing bathroom or a bedroom is ideal.
- Materials – You need to ensure you choose tapware and finishes that are rated for outdoor use. Indoor tapware won't stand the constant exposure to



the elements. Finishes like bronze, copper, and brass are great choices. Copper in particular is very popular and it ages beautifully in the weather giving the tapware a lovely patina.

- Drainage and plumbing – Particularly if you're going to use soaps and

shampoos in your shower you need to ensure that your shower is connected to the sewer. If you would like access to a warm shower rather than just something with cold water that's more suited to rinsing off in the summer sun or cooling off after a jog you'll need it to connect to your

water heater.

- Other features – You might also want to consider bench seating or built-in shelves for towels to dry off and other bathroom items. Any storage solutions will need to be watertight and suitable for outdoor use.

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Get yourself the right people

By Queensland Building and Construction Commission

FINDING the right person to carry out your building project is essential.

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission make the process easier by providing examples of questions to ask and the best places to search for trade contractors, builders, plumbers and certifiers.

Why should you always use a licensed contractor?

When you're getting building work done it's important to use a licensed contractor, as they have the relevant qualifications and experience to complete your job.

With all the do-it-yourself programs around, people can be forgiven for believing anyone can deliver an award-winning home renovation in a weekend.

The reality is very different, as are the potential pitfalls of using someone unlicensed.

Using an unlicensed contractor increases the likelihood of defective and unfinished work.

It may void your access to Queensland Home Warranty Insurance, a scheme designed to assist home owners when these issues occur.

Licensed contractors have proven they have the skills and experience to perform the work they are licensed for, so they are the obvious choice for your next construction project.

How to spot an unlicensed contractor?

One telltale sign of an unlicensed

contractor is the lack of detail provided in their advertising.

They may also promote a low price for their services to help disguise this fact.

All licensed contractors in Queensland are required by law to provide specific details in any advertising for their services.

These details are:

- contractor's name - a contractor can be a person or a business. This must match the name the QBCC licence is registered under.
- the QBCC licence number - this is unique to that contractor.

If you are after general maintenance work under \$3300, the contractor must state in their ad that they can only do work up to this value (this work generally does not require a QBCC licence).

So, if you see an ad without these details, there's a chance they may be unlicensed.

Find a licensed contractor

The easiest way to find a licensed contractor is using the QBCC's free find a local contractor online search.

It allows you to select the type of work you want done, as well as a location and radius.

Your results will be a list of all contractors in that area, along with their licence class and contact details.

If you have a licensee's licence number or name you can look them up on the QBCC licensee register.

This function offers more information, including a complete



licence history.

You may find this helpful to narrow down the licensed contractors you're considering.

Referrals

One of the most effective ways to find a contractor is to get referrals from family or friends.

You'll get insight into the quality of the builder's work, and the standard of their customer service.

Internet search

If you don't know anyone who has recently built, you can go online and search for contractors in your local area using your browser.

Advertisements

If you're looking through the ads in your local newspaper, a tip to make sure you get the right person for your job is to look at their specialty.

A contractor who is doing only one type of construction work is likely to have more experience and knowledge in that area.

Other options

Another way of finding a contractor is to take note of any building work going on in your neighbourhood.

There will always be a sign on display, which should contain all the builder's contact details.

You can also contact industry associations, like the QMBA or HIA, as well as building material suppliers and hardware stores.

Find a licensed certifier

Generally, your builder will organise a building certifier to approve building work.

However, if you want to engage the certifier yourself, you can find one using the QBCC's free search function find a local contractor.

Select Building Certifier in the drop down menu and then enter your town or suburb for a current list of all licensed certifiers available in that location.

If you engage a building certifier, all relevant parties must be aware of the certifier's engagement, role and responsibilities.

You can also check a certifier's licence details using the QCC licensee register.

How to check a QBCC licence

To find out more about a licensee you can use the QBCC licensee register.

They can give you information about the type of work the licensee does, as well as their history (any disciplinary action).

You can also call them on 139 333 with the contractor's name, business address and licence number.



Find a licensed plumber

It is important to ensure the right people with the right qualifications and practical experience are performing your plumbing work.

By engaging a licensed plumber and/or drainer you minimise unnecessary risks to your family's health and safety.

What licence should a plumber hold?

In some instances, it may be necessary for a plumber to hold both an occupational and contractor licence to carry out work, regardless of the value.

An occupational licence enables the person to physically carry out the work, a contractor licence allows the person to

engage in a contract for the work.

To find out more about a licensee you can search the QBCC licensee register or search the occupational plumber or drainer register.

Head to www.qbcc.qld.gov.au for more information.

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